

REMARKS

This Amendment is submitted with a Request for Continued Examination. The Official Action dated February 9, 2007 has been carefully considered. Accordingly, the following remarks are believed sufficient to place the present application in condition for allowance. Reconsideration is respectfully requested.

By the present Amendment, Claims 8, 12, 22 and 27 have been amended herein. Support for the amendments can be found in the specification and claims as originally filed (for example, see Examples 2-10). Claims 30 and 31 have been added. Accordingly, it is believed that these changes do not involve any introduction of new matter, and entry is believed to be in order and is respectfully requested.

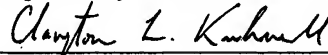
In the Official Action, claims 3-6, 8-14, 18-20 and 22-28 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being unpatentable over Beach et al (U.S. Patent No. 5,874,172) in view of Robertson (U.S. Patent No. 4,504,313). Although Applicants respectfully disagree with the Examiner's assertion and traverse the same. Applicants have amended independent claims 8 and 22 to recite that the roll exhibits a Shore A hardness of less than about 50 according to ASTM D2240-86. As noted by the Examiner, Beach et al fail to teach the additional graft curative, and, as such, the Examiner relied on the teachings of Robertson. However, Robertson fails to provide any teaching or reason that the roll exhibits a Shore A hardness of less than about 50 according to ASTM D2240-86. Moreover, example 1 provided in the present application provides for a formulation for a roll similar to that disclosed in Beach et al which has a Shore A hardness value of 60. Thus, independent claims 8 and 22 recite having a roll exhibit a Shore A hardness of less than about 50 which is an unforeseen characteristic not taught or suggested by either Beach et al or Robertson, thereby rendering claims 8 and 22 non-obvious. In order to place the claimed invention in the possession of the public, references relied upon to support a rejection under 35 U.S.C. §103 must provide an enabling disclosure *In re Payne*, 203 U.S.P.Q. 245 (CCPA 1979). Here, the combination of Beach et al and Robertson fails to do so. As such, it is believed that independent claims 8 and 22 and any claims depending thereon, as presently amended, are allowable and overcome the present rejection over Beach et al in view of Robertson.

Newly added claims 30 and 31 have been written to reflect changes to claims 8 and 22, respectively, where the Examiner indicated (in the Official Action dated September 6, 2006) that such claims would be patentable.

Serial No. 10/755,904
Amendment Dated May 9, 2007
Reply to Office Action Dated February 9, 2007

It is believed that the above amendments and remarks represent a complete response to the rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103, and as such, place the present application having claims 3-6, 8-15, 18-20 and 22-31 in condition for allowance. Reconsideration and an early allowance are requested.

Respectfully submitted,



Clayton L. Kuhnell

Reg. No. 48,691

Attorney for Applicants

DINSMORE & SHOHL LLP

1900 Chemed Center

255 E. Fifth Street

Cincinnati, Ohio 45202

(513) 977-8377

1381037v1